

**From:** Morning Consult [energy@e.morningconsult.com]  
**Sent:** 10/26/2016 12:05:56 PM  
**To:** Duffy, Rick [Duffy.Rick@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy: Energy Advisers Debate Paris, Coal; Judge Approves \$14.7 Billion VW Settlement



**MORNING CONSULT**  
**ENERGY**

By Jack Fitzpatrick

## Today's Washington Brief

- Trevor Houser and Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), who respectively are advising Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, debated energy issues at the University of Richmond on Tuesday, touching on climate change and the future of coal. Cramer called the Paris climate agreement the "acquiescence of American interests to global interests," while Houser criticized Trump for calling climate change a "hoax." (The Hill)
- The U.S. hopes to ensure there's no "backsliding" on the Paris agreement when international leaders meet in Marrakesh, Morocco, in November, said Jonathan Pershing, the State Department's special envoy for climate change. The agreement takes effect a few days before the next meeting, so officials will have a chance to work on the details of setting the deal in stone, he said. (Morning Consult)
- Scott Busby, a senior State Department official for human rights, called China's use of a loophole to buy coal from North Korea "unacceptable." He said the department will raise the issue at a meeting this week. (The Associated Press)

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## Today's Business Brief

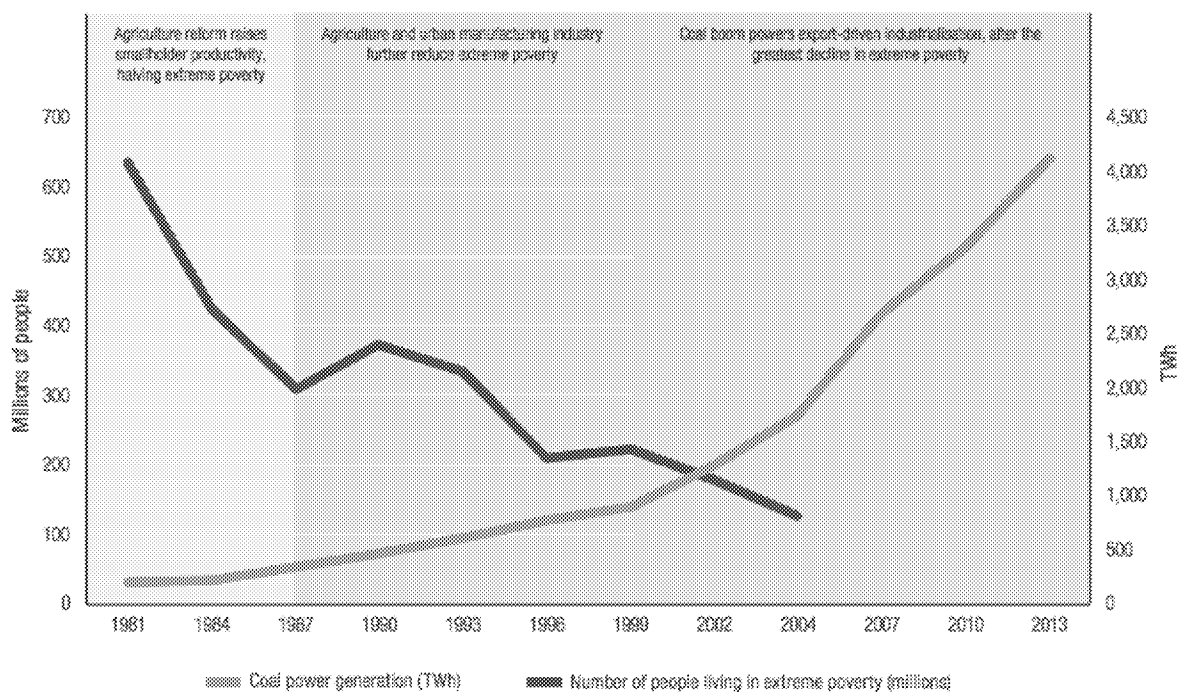
- A federal judge approved a \$14.7 billion settlement to address Volkswagen's emissions-cheating scandal. The deal calls for the company to compensate the owners of 475,000 cars involved in the controversy. (Los Angeles Times)
- Renewables accounted for half of all electricity-generating capacity added around the world last year, according to the International Energy Agency. The group predicted peak capacity from renewable sources will grow faster than fossil fuel or nuclear power in the next five years. (The Guardian)
- The European Council approved the increased shipping of gas from Russia's Gazprom through a key connector pipeline in Germany. Observers called it a sign Europe and Russia are mending business relationships. (The Wall Street Journal)

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## Today's Chart Review

Energy poverty is a real problem. Coal is a bogus solution.  
**Vox**

**Figure 3: China's extreme poverty plunged before coal power was ramped up**



## Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

### Wednesday

Greentech Media hosts U.S. Solar Market Insight 2016

**9:30 a.m.**

### Thursday

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation hosts discussion on federal clean energy research, development, and demonstration

**9 a.m.**

### Friday

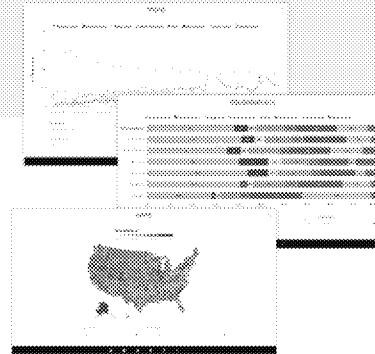
No events scheduled.

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## General

### Judge Approves \$14.7 Billion Volkswagen Settlement Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

A federal judge in California approved a \$14.7 billion settlement on Tuesday between Volkswagen, consumers, and the federal government, after the company was found to have cheated on emissions tests. The settlement requires that Volkswagen set aside a \$10.3 billion fund for buying back customers' cars, in addition to fees the company will pay to the federal government.

### Clinton, Trump advisers face off over energy policy Timothy Cama, The Hill

Advisers to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump clashed strongly Tuesday over major energy policy questions, like whether the Paris climate agreement is good for the country and what the future of coal should be. Trevor Houser, the Democrat's top energy adviser, argued for Clinton's vision of a future in which low-carbon sources dominate the world's energy markets.

### WHO cancer agency asked experts to withhold weedkiller documents Kate Kelland, Reuters

The World Health Organization's cancer agency - which is facing criticism over how it classifies carcinogens - advised academic experts on one of its review panels not to disclose documents they were asked to release under United States freedom of information laws. In a letter and an email seen by Reuters, officials from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) cautioned scientists who

worked on a review in 2015 of the weedkiller glyphosate against releasing requested material.

#### **Science Committee Chair: EPA Gave Misleading Testimony on Herbicide Study**

**Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) on Tuesday accused Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy of giving misleading testimony on an international study on the safety of the widely used herbicide glyphosate. The International Agency for Research on Cancer released a report in March 2015 saying glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic."

#### **Freeport-McMoRan Swings to Profit After String of Losses** **Imani Moise, The Wall Street Journal**

Freeport-McMoRan Inc. swung to a profit for the first time in nearly two years, as the company moves to focus more on its copper business. The biggest U.S. mining company by market value has been increasing copper production despite weak prices, and it also has been shedding assets to help reduce its debt.

#### **ClearPath Adds \$200,000 Backing Burr** **Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

The ClearPath Action Fund, which supports Republicans who back clean energy, added another \$200,000 to its digital and mail ad campaign backing Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), the group announced Tuesday. The move brings its total spending in the race to \$600,000.

#### **Stocks Fall as Apple Adds to Earnings Queasiness; Oil Retreats** **James Regan and Alan Soughley, Bloomberg News**

A barrage of earnings from bellwethers including Lloyds Banking Group Plc and Apple Inc. left stocks lower around the world, with weaker crude prices doing little to help equities' cause. The Stoxx Europe 600 Index headed for its fourth day without a gain and the MSCI Asia Pacific Index retreated from a two-week high.

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## **Oil & Natural Gas**

#### **Gore slams 'dangerous' Dakota pipeline project** **Devin Henry, The Hill**

Former Vice President Al Gore on Tuesday praised demonstrators protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline project in North Dakota, calling the project "dangerous." Gore said he is opposed to the \$3.8 billion pipeline project and supports the fight to stop it in North Dakota, where the pipeline has become a rallying point for American Indian rights and anti-fossil fuel activists alike.

#### **EU Approves Increased Gazprom Use of Opal Pipeline** **Gabriele Steinhauser, The Wall Street Journal**

The European Commission on Tuesday authorized Russia's PAO Gazprom to ship more gas through a key connector pipeline in Germany, two people familiar with the matter said. The move is a sign that Russia and the European Union are mending their business relationships despite growing tensions over Moscow's bombing campaign in Syria.

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## **Utilities & Infrastructure**

#### **'Solar Winds' Spur Geomagnetic Storm That May Affect Power** **Brian K. Sullivan, Bloomberg News**

Charged particles flowing from the sun have touched off a strong geomagnetic storm across the Earth that can disrupt power grids, satellites and radio navigation systems. Geomagnetic conditions increased early Tuesday before weakening by midday, according to the U.S. Space Weather Prediction Center.

#### **'This attack was different' - cyberthreat draws utility warnings** **Blake Sobczak, EnergyWire**

Swarms of hacked, internet-connected devices have menaced core parts of the web and put utilities on edge. On Friday, millions of Americans awoke to find they couldn't access many popular websites, including Twitter, Spotify and Github.

#### **Washed-out bridge blamed for pipeline rupture, gas spill** **The Associated Press**

A bridge washed out by flooding traveled the length of a football field and ruptured a pipeline last week, spilling about 55,000 gallons of gasoline into a Pennsylvania creek, pipeline officials said Tuesday. An "object of extreme destructive force" severed the 8-inch pipeline under Wallis Run in Lycoming County, Sunoco Logistics said in a news release.

## **Pipeline Remains Closed Following Oil Spill in Oklahoma**

### **Ken Miller, The Associated Press**

A Seaway Crude Pipeline Co. pipeline that spilled oil at a storage hub in Oklahoma remained closed Tuesday, according to a spokesman for Houston-based Enterprise Products Partners, a 50 percent owner of Seaway. "As of right now we don't have an estimate of when it will be back up," as officials are trying to determine the cause of the spill that happened shortly before midnight Sunday in Cushing, spokesman Rick Rainey said.

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## **Renewables**

### **Renewables made up half of net electricity capacity added last year**

#### **Adam Vaughan, The Guardian**

Green energy accounted for more than half of net electricity generation capacity added around the world last year for the first time, leading energy experts have found. The International Energy Agency (IEA) said the milestone was evidence of a rapid transformation in energy taking place, and predicted capacity from renewable sources will grow faster than oil, gas, coal or nuclear power in the next five years.

### **Xcel wants to build three more wind farms in Minnesota**

#### **Mike Hughlett, Minneapolis Star Tribune**

Xcel Energy said Tuesday it plans to build three new wind farms in Minnesota and one in North Dakota, part of a larger program to increase its wind generation capacity by 60 percent in the Upper Midwest. Together, the four projects total 750 megawatts and will provide enough energy to power nearly 400,000 homes.

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## **Coal**

### **US official: China using a loophole to buy coal from North Korea is 'unacceptable'**

#### **Matthew Pennington, The Associated Press**

A senior US official says China's use of a loophole in UN sanctions to purchase huge amounts of North Korean coal is "unacceptable." Scott Busby, a senior State

Department official for human rights, said Tuesday those coal sales are probably the North's main source of foreign currency.

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## Nuclear

**Norway Nuclear Reactor Leaks Radioactive Iodine: Officials**  
**Alexander Smith, NBC News**

A technical failure at a nuclear reactor caused a leak of radioactive material, officials in Norway said Tuesday. Experts said contamination levels were well within legal limits following the spill of radioactive iodine at the Institute for Energy Technology, in the southern town of Halden, meaning there was no risk to the public or environment.

**Fukushima nuclear clean-up may rise to several billion dollars a year: government**  
**Kentaro Hamada and Osamu Tsukimori, Reuters**

The cost of cleaning up Tokyo Electric Power's wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant may rise to several billion dollars a year, the Japanese government said on Tuesday, adding that it would look into a possible separation of the nuclear business from the utility. A possible move to spin off Tepco's nuclear business into a subsidiary could make it easier to sell or merge it with other companies in the future.

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## Climate

**U.S. Envoy: 'We Do Not Want Any Backsliding' on Paris Agreement**  
**Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

The United States hopes to move forward on the Paris climate agreement and ensure that countries don't renege on their promises when leaders meet in November in Marrakesh, Morocco, a State Department official said Tuesday. "We do not want any backsliding," said Jonathan Pershing, the department's special envoy for climate change at an event organized by the Atlantic Council.

**Ky. says 'pencils down,' but one group is writing a plan**  
**Emily Holden, ClimateWire**



Late last year, when it became clear incoming Republican Gov. Matt Bevin didn't want to plan for federal climate regulations, a small group of Kentuckians decided to take things into their own hands. In the Southern style, Chris Woolery invited 120 friends to his house for red beans and rice, craft beer, and some "geeky" energy talk.

#### **EPA, NHTSA Set Schedule for Cutting Emissions From Heavy-Duty Vehicles** **Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

The Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released the second phase of the agencies' greenhouse gas standards for heavy-duty vehicles Tuesday. The rule sets fuel consumption standards and aims to limit carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane emissions from tractors, heavy-duty pickup trucks and vans, and "vocational vehicles."

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## **Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives**

Energy poverty is a real problem. Coal is a bogus solution.  
**David Roberts, Vox**

Some 1.2 billion people around the world lack access to electricity. 2.8 billion burn charcoal, wood, or other biomass to cook and heat their homes.

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## **Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies**

Rapid submarine ice melting in the grounding zones of ice shelves in West Antarctica  
**Ala Khazendar, Nature**

Enhanced submarine ice-shelf melting strongly controls ice loss in the Amundsen Sea embayment (ASE) of West Antarctica, but its magnitude is not well known in the critical grounding zones of the ASE's major glaciers. Here we directly quantify bottom ice losses along tens of kilometres with airborne radar sounding of the Dotson and Crosson ice shelves, which buttress the rapidly changing Smith, Pope and Kohler glaciers.



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